

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Jan. 13, 1998

cc Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
JAN 28 1998
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am a BellSouth - Louisiana employee and I am writing to you to urge approval of the company's application to provide long distance service in Louisiana. There has been a lot of attention around the company and in the media lately about the FCC's belief that BellSouth doesn't face enough competition to be allowed in the long distance business.

I would tell you that we have done everything required of us by the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the FCC and Congress. And I firmly believe those actions have prompted numerous competitors to enter the market. We have been more than aggressive in opening our local network; how else would you explain the fact that 250 companies regionwide and 87 in Louisiana have signed interconnection and resale agreements with us? Additionally, the company spent \$500 million last year developing systems our competitors can use to interface with our ordering and billing systems. On August 13, 1997, these systems were publicly demonstrated to the Louisiana Public Service Commission in Baton Rouge and they were determined to work just fine.

Two companies, ACSI and KMC Telecommunications, are competing against us in Shreveport/Bossier City. Both companies are installing miles of fiber optic cable throughout the area and KMC will be turning up their own switching machine any day. BellSouth has lost close to 10,000 customers to these and other competitors in Louisiana, and the losses regionwide are growing at about 25 percent per month.

It seems to me that there is plenty of competition in the market, just like Congress intended. We have done everything required of us; I know -- I'm on the firing line every day. Again, I ask you to approve our application. It's the right thing to do in the name of competition and fair play.

Yours truly,
Phillip Deaton
5836 Colquitt Road
Keithville, La. 71047

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041

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

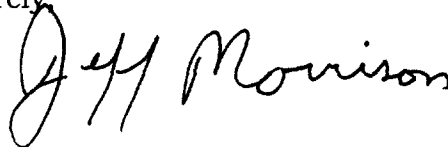
I understand that you are in the process of reviewing BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance service market in the State of Louisiana. As a BellSouth employee, I welcome the opportunity to bring additional choices and lower prices to our customers. I respectfully urge you to approve BellSouth's request.

Granting our request will enable us to expand services to our local customers. Consumers will finally have the option of consolidating all communications services with one provider and enable them to receive a single monthly bill. It would also stimulate some of the large long distance companies to offer local service to their customers as well. Regardless of who the customer ultimately selects as their provider, the customers win.

In addition, as other providers come into our area to compete, they will need to build infrastructure and invest in our community. Attractive jobs will be created in both the construction and service segments, further fueling our economy. Even though they are competitors, I personally welcome this economic growth because it's good for our area of the state which only emerged from a recession a few years ago.

Chairman Kennard, please consider our application very carefully and approve it without further delay. It's time to bring true competition to the local and long distance telephone service industry.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Morrison
7180 N. Lakeshore Dr.
Blanchard, LA 71009

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Acadian

Ambulance & Air Med Services

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P.O. Box 98000 • LAFAYETTE, LA • 70509-8000

CC Docket No. 97-231

January 14, 1998

Mr. William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20554

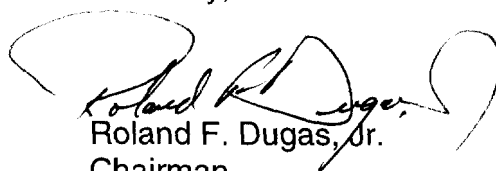
Dear Mr. Kennard:

I understand that BellSouth has made application with the FCC to provide long distance service in Louisiana. Acadian Ambulance Service has been utilizing BellSouth in other areas for a number of years and they are currently providing extremely critical telecommunications services which we utilize on a daily basis. I have found the service of BellSouth to be outstanding and I urge the FCC to vote favorably on allowing BellSouth to provide long distance service.

Mr. Kennard, I am very confident that if allowed into the long distance market, BellSouth would offer very competitive services and I am looking forward to working with Bell South in this particular area of the telecommunications market.

Would appreciate your favorable consideration in allowing BellSouth to provide long distance service.

Sincerely,


Roland F. Dugas, Jr.
Chairman

tc

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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AMBULANCE
DISPATCH
511
800-259-1111

ADMINISTRATION
318-267-3333
800-259-3333

BILLING
800-259-2222

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021

Shreveport, Louisiana
January 12, 1998

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am a Louisiana BellSouth employee writing to you to urge the approval of our company's application to provide long distance service in Louisiana. There has been a lot of attention around the company and in the media lately about the FCC's belief that BellSouth doesn't face enough competition to be allowed in the long distance business.

We have done everything required of us by the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the FCC and Congress and numerous competitors have entered the market. We have been more than aggressive in opening our local network, evidenced by the fact that 250 companies regionwide and 87 in Louisiana have signed interconnection and resale agreements with us. Additionally, the company spent \$500 million last year developing systems our competitors can use to interface with our ordering and billing systems. On August 13, 1997, these systems were publicly demonstrated to the Louisiana Public Service Commission in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and they were determined to work fine.

Two companies, ACSI and KMC Telecommunications, are competing against us in Shreveport and Bossier City, Louisiana. Both companies are installing miles of fiber optic cable throughout the area and KMC will be turning up their own switching machine any day. BellSouth has lost almost 10,000 customers to competitors in Louisiana, and the losses regionwide are growing at about 25 percent per month.

There is plenty of competition in the market, just as Congress intended. As an employee of BellSouth and as a customer, I ask that our application be approved.

Sincerely,



Clara Michel
213 Winged Foot Drive
Shreveport, Louisiana
318-798-3935

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CH



John G. Cabeza
Scout Executive

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
JAN 21 1 35 PM '98

January 12, 1998

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support of BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service in Louisiana. As a consumer and as someone who is involved in my community, I believe it would be in the best interest of the state of Louisiana for you to allow them to do so.

Consumers know that as more businesses begin providing a particular product, the cost of delivering that product is driven down to the lowest possible level and prices paid by consumers are reduced. I believe the same will be true for long-distance service. If you allow BellSouth - a company that is not affiliated with any of the major long-distance service providers - to enter the market, it will compete on price. In fact, I've heard that they have committed to reducing rates at least five percent from the very beginning. That will provide significant savings to the average customers.

Furthermore, by bundling services into convenient packages with a single bill, BellSouth will give consumers what we have wanted for years - the chance to purchase all communication services from one company.

Chairman Kennard, please consider the opinions presented by Louisiana consumers and community leaders who believe that BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market is good for Louisiana. Please approve BellSouth's request without further delay.

Sincerely,

John Cabeza
Scout Executive

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Norwela Council, B.S.A., 3508 Beverly Place, Shreveport, LA. 71104

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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CC Docket No. 97-231

1-14-98

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I have been an employee with BellSouth for 20 years, and I am extremely interested in the outcome of our application to enter the long distance market in Louisiana. I hope that you approve the request. This will not only help our customers but the employees and shareholders as well.

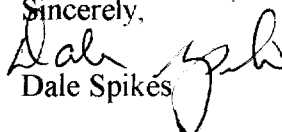
I am proud of the work BellSouth has done. We are a major local service provider. As employees we make many positive contributions to our communities because of Bellsouth's strong commitment to Louisiana.

I believe it is time to let Bellsouth do what the Telecommunications Act intended. That being to compete with the major long-distance providers in Louisiana. Our customers don't want to deal with numerous providers for their telecommunication service. If you allow BellSouth to enter the long distance market, you will make it easier for our customers and their service should improve.

Please consider the recommendation of the Louisiana Public Service Commission and approve BellSouth's request to enter into the long distance market. BellSouth wants to provide the best possible service to our customers.

Sincerely,

Dale Spikes



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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 14, 1998

JUN 21 1 35 PM '98

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman-FCC
1919 M Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231


Dear Mr. Kennard:

I am an employee of BellSouth in Louisiana and have been for 28 years. I have followed with interest the Telecommunication Act and how it affects BellSouth in general and Louisiana in particular. I strongly urge you to consider allowing BellSouth to provide long distance service in Louisiana as well as other states where we have met the requirements of state regulators and those of the Act itself.

BellSouth should be allowed in the long distance competitive arena as the Act call for so our customers who want and have been asking us to provide such service can obtain it; so our employees who have worked diligently to meet the necessary requirements will know their work has not been in vain; and so the stockholders who have invested in our company will be rewarded fairly.

BellSouth and its employees have always been good corporate citizens and we are proud of our record of serving our communities. As a citizen, as well as an employee of BellSouth, I am asking you to approve BellSouth's request to provide the long distance service without delay.

Sincerely,


Kelley Adams

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T. Power

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ELLEN HAZEUR-DISTANCE
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT E

The Council
City of New Orleans

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CITY HALL, SUITE 2W60
1300 PERDIDO STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112
(504) 565-6305

December 30, 1997

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As the newly appointed Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, I understand that one of the issues you and your colleagues will address is BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market in Louisiana. I support BellSouth's entry into the long distance market as an important step which will foster robust competition in all sectors of the telecommunications industry. BellSouth's entry into the long distance market will in turn stimulate investment by other providers in the local telecommunications market.

New Orleans and the rest of Louisiana need the development of a state-of-the art telecommunications infrastructure to insure economic growth in the future. I endorse the findings and recommendation of the Louisiana Public Service Commission that BellSouth should be allowed to compete in the long distance market.

I hope that the Federal Communications Commission will concur and approve an application by BellSouth which will have a significant positive impact on the economic future of New Orleans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Hazeur-Distance".

Ellen Hazeur-Distance
Council Utility Committee

EHD/JMF/mb

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LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JAN 21 1 43 PM '98

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DOCKET FILE

CHARLES D. LANCASTER, JR.
District 80

Kathy Eldridge
Legislative Assistant

Phone (504) 837-4477
Fax (504) 837-4478
Suite 200
2201 Veterans Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70002

COMMITTEES

Chairman
House & Governmental Affairs

Member
House Executive Committee
Legislative Budgetary
Control Council

CC Docket No. 97-231

January 9, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

It has come to my attention that BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana is presently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission.

I support BellSouth's application and I hope that it will be approved at the appropriate time.

The provision of long-distance service by BellSouth in Louisiana will increase competition, resulting in better prices, new and innovative services, more telecommunications choices for business and residential customers, and new information age jobs for Louisiana workers. In light of the Louisiana Public Service Commission's endorsement of the BellSouth application and their approval of its rate structure, the FCC should approve BellSouth's application as soon as practicable.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Lancaster, Jr.

CDL/kfe

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JAN 28 1998

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January 13, 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Honorable Kennard:

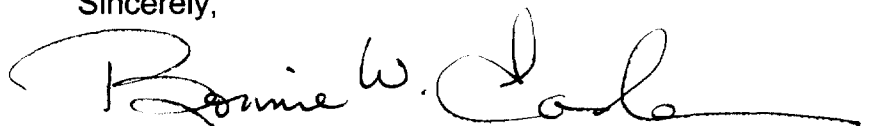
I am writing to you to express my concerns over the FCC's pending decision to allow BellSouth in Louisiana to enter the long distance market. I understand that a decision by the FCC on this application is expected next month.

I would like to strongly encourage the FCC to allow BellSouth to enter the long distance market in Louisiana. BellSouth has publicly demonstrated that it's local network is open and that it's operational support systems work. In addition, the Louisiana Public Service Commission has found that it is in the public's best interest that BellSouth be allowed to compete in the long distance marketplace. The Commission's decision was made only after a thorough investigation and consideration of all parties concerns, including those of the consuming public.

The largest long distance providers (the "Big Three") have appeared to purposely delay entering the local market, especially avoiding the residential market in Louisiana, for strategic reasons. The Big Three may never offer service to the typical residence customer because they prefer to service only the higher volume, higher return business customer. For instance, AT&T's strategy to begin charging every small business customer a minimum charge of \$5.00 per month was an attempt to "divest" themselves of the low-use customer base. By allowing BellSouth to compete in long distance will finally give customers a real choice in long distance service providers. BellSouth's long distance tariffs currently on file with the state Commission reflect rates which are, in all cases, at least 5% lower than the equivalent rate offered by the dominant carrier. Louisiana customers deserve this choice and BellSouth deserves the opportunity to offer customers lower prices and one-stop shopping, along with the opportunity to contribute towards an increase in economic development for the entire state.

Your consideration and support of BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market in Louisiana would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Bonnie W. Eades

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